

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094897

TOSEC 399

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAMA 0318 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO JIDDA KUWAIT TEHRAN COMIDEASTFOR, MAY 7TH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, MARR, BA

SUBJECT : UNCERTAIN BAHRAIN DELIBERATIONS ON STATUS OF
MIDDLE EAST FORCE

REF : A. MANAMA 0284; B. MANAMA 0276

1. DURING APRIL 25 DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH
MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK ON OTHER MATTERS, I ASKED IF THERE WERE
ANY THING HE CARED TO SAY ABOUT THE STATUS OF MIDDLE EAST
FORCE. I DID NOT WISH TO PRESS UNDULY BUT MOHAMMAD KNEW AS
WELL AS I THAT TIME WAS BECOMING ON INCREASINGLY WORRISOME FACTOR
TO THE UNITED STATES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SHOOK HIS HEAD AND
RESPONDED HOW MUCH HE REGRETTEED SENDING THE OCTOBER 20, 1973
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LETTER TELLING THE U.S. NAVY IT WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE. IF ONLY

THE LETTER HAD NOT BEEN SENT THERE WOULD NOW BE NO PROBLEM. BUT AS THE SITUATION HAS EVOLVED, THE PROBLEM OF GETTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO GO ALONG WITH LIFTING THE EXPULSION NOTICE HAS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT. (COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER ON APRIL 18 ALSO STRESSED THE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES OVER THE WIDER ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION IN DISCUSSING PROBLEM OF RETAINING AMERICAN NAVAL PRESENCE HERE. HOWEVER, FURTHER QUESTIONING OF MOHAMMAD INDICATED THAT HE IS ASSUMING SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL ACHIEVE A SEPARATION OF ISRAEL-SYRIA FORCES ON GOLAN, BUT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL PERSIST DESPITE THE GOLAN SEPARATION. END COMMENT.)

2. IN SUBSEQUENT TALK WITH MOHAMMAD ON MAY 5, I WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MORE HE COULD SAY ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE BEYOND TELLING ME THAT THE SUBJECT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE BAHRAINI CABINET.

3. COMMENT: ALL THE SIGNALS WE ARE RECEIVING STILL SEEM TO IMPLY THAT THE GOB IS THINKING IN TERMS OF EXTENDING MIDDLE EAST FORCE. BUT ASIDE FROM ALL IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ISRAEL-ARAB CONTEXT, THE BAHRAINI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERJECTS A NOTE OF GREAT UNCERTAINTY IN GOB DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING MEF. THE 30-MAN ASSEMBLY IS FAR MORE RADICAL THAN THE GOB HAD ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED THAT IT WOULD BE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER SEEMED QUITE TO RECOVER ITS BALANCE SINCE THE DECEMBER 1973 ELECTIONS. BOTH THE ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNMENT ARE FEELING THEIR WAY AND NEITHER IS CERTAIN HOW FAR IT MUST GO TO ACCOMMODATE THE OTHER. AND THAT IS HOW THE SITUATION LOOKS TODAY.

KILLGORE

UNQUOTE RUSH

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